

Phaeoramularia Leaf Spot of *Saururus*¹

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INTRODUCTION: The genus *Saururus* (Saururaceae) is comprised of two species of perennial herbs that inhabit freshwater marshes and swamps, the edges of rivers and streams, and other freshwater aquatic environments. One species, *S. cernuus* L. (lizard's tail, swamp lily, water-dragon), is native to eastern North America. *Saururus chinensis* (Lour.) Baill., the other species, while similar in most respects to *S. cernuus*, is indigenous to eastern Asia (Everett 1982; Huxley 1992; Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium Staff 1978; Mabberley 1997). On July 16, 1998, S. E. Walker collected a sample of *S. cernuus* growing in a roadside drainage ditch in Alachua County, Florida that had numerous dark leaf spots.

SYMPTOMS: Leaf spots are initially dark maroon to black in color with reddish margins, angular to irregular in outline, and measuring 1-10 mm across. Upon maturing, spots may coalesce into blotches with the center sometimes becoming lighter as the tissue becomes dry and necrotic. Tip and marginal necrosis may also occur (Fig. 1) (Crous *et al.* 1999).

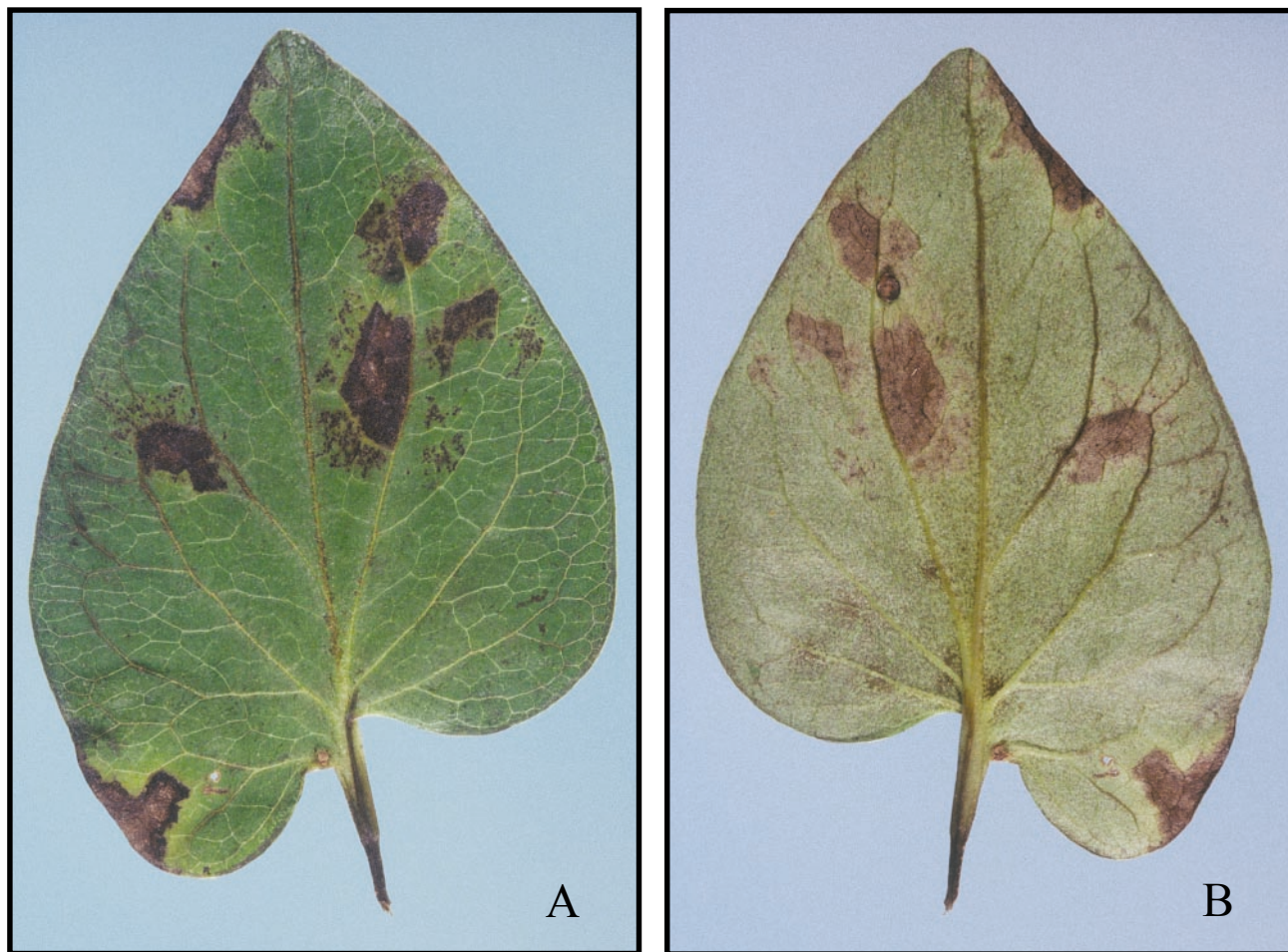


Fig. 1. Angular to irregular leaf spots on upper (A) and corresponding lower (B) surface of *Saururus cernuus* caused by *Phaeoramularia saururi*.

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CAUSAL AGENT: A fungus identified as *Phaeoramularia saururi* Crous & El-Gholl (Crous *et al.* 1999) (Fig. 2) was sporulating in the leaf spots. In the earlier literature, it was described as *Cercospora saururi* Ellis & Everh. (Chupp 1953). Proof of pathogenicity was demonstrated (Crous *et al.* 1999).

SURVEY AND DETECTION: Look for dark maroon to black, angular to irregular leaf spots.

CONTROL: If chemical control is warranted, chlorothalonil plus thiophanate methyl may be tried (Simone *et al.* 1999-2000).

LITERATURE CITED

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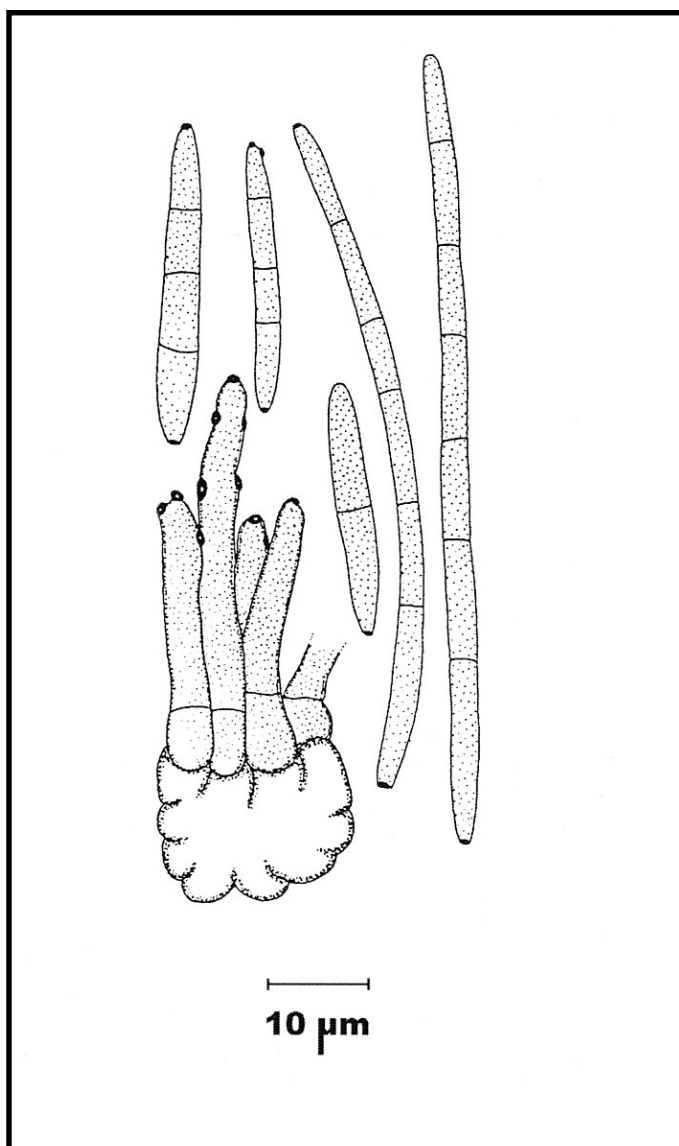


Fig. 2. *Phaeoramularia saururi*. Conidiophores and conidia (after Crous *et al.* 1999).